

*FAYETTE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND VOTER REGISTRATION
Regularly Scheduled FEBRUARY Monthly Meeting*

February 28, 2012

Deputy Registrar training for the Knights of Columbus was conducted at 5:00 pm by Supervisor Sawyer and staff from the Elections & Voter Registrars Department. Chairman Lester arrived near the end of the training session and conducted the swearing in of the 5 members of the Knights of Columbus who had just attended the training class.

The regularly scheduled February meeting of the Fayette County Board of Elections was called to order by Chairman Addison Lester at 6:00pm. Also present were Members Darryl Hicks and Marilyn Watts. There was a brief discussion that normally the first order of business was to elect the new chairman. It had not been placed on the agenda. Member Hicks stated that he thought that we could handle this under other business. Member Watts indicated that this should be the first item on the agenda.

Member Darryl Hicks made a motion that the agenda be amended to put the first item to be the election of the Chairman of the Fayette County Elections and Voter Registration Board. Member Watts seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously 3 to 0. Addison Lester asked if there were any nomination for chairman. Member Darryl Hicks made the motion that we continue with Addison Lester as Chairman. Member Lester seconded the motion in order for discussion. Member Watts stated that there had been lots and lots of controversy about his appointment and the possible conflict of interest. She further indicated there was nothing personal, but because of that she would not be able to vote for Member Lester. Member Hicks stated that he did not know the politics of what was going on with this but that during the last year he had not seen any indication of any problems. Member Watts said that she was not implying anything, but that the perception out there is that something is out of order. The family relationship and the fact that it was not disclosed when Lester was nominated and elected continues to be brought up at each commissioner meetings. Member Hicks said that he had noticed that Member Lester had tried real hard to stay clear of the limelight. He further stated that the reason that he nominated him was that he had the capacity to do the task and has the ability to remain objective and based on what he has seen the last year that he knows where the lines are. He said also that he was okay with it. Member Lester stated that neither himself nor Member Watts had been able to stay out of the paper. Member Watts said that that was another thing that she wanted to talk about and Lester said he did also. He said that he thought that this discussion would allow each of them to get to know each other better. Member Hicks said that he could be the chair and that this would be the neutral part of it. Member Watts said that she couldn't vote for that either. Member Watts said that the persons making these comments about Addison probably don't even know him but they do paint a bad picture about him. This is the same group of people who are opposed to the West Fayetteville By-Pass and talk about his family owning property adjacent to this roadway and that this was certainly being perceived as a conflict of interest. Member Hicks said that this body doesn't vote on these things, but Member Watts said that these were the things that were being said. Member Lester said that he indicated to Commissioner Hearn from when he first approached him for this board position that he would remain extremely impartial and would not allow any political

persons to use his property for posting campaign signs. He also pointed out that he and Commissioner Hearn were second cousins on his mother's side of the family – the land was owned by his father's side of the family and that Commissioner Hearn had no vested interest in that land. Member Hicks said that there was a motion and a second and that we had had discussion. He felt that we needed to go ahead and call the vote. Chairman Lester said that he preferred to put the vote off until there was further discussion on some things or we amend the agenda once again until we could talk about the letters that had been in the paper. It was mentioned that Supervisor Sawyer could preside over the meeting in the absence of a chairman at this point. Member Hicks stated that he would like to withdraw his nomination of Mr. Lester and amending the agenda by postponing consideration of the matter until later in the meeting. Member Lester withdrew his second of the motion and he agreed to move discussion to the end of the meeting. Supervisor Sawyer said that we should now go on with the agenda as originally presented.

A. HEARINGS

1. DECEASED AND
2. FELON ELECTORS

Supervisor Sawyer presented a list of voters that the Elections office has deleted based upon a report of death certificates issued by the Fayette Probate Judge and also the SSVRZ 561 (R1 to R8) list maintenance reports from the Secretary of State's office. This list was prepared by Election Officer Crosby who is recommending that the board approve these voters being deleted from the Fayette County voter rolls. There is also a list of voters who have become felons who staff was recommending that the deletion of these voters be approved by the Board of Elections. Member Lester made a motion to approve the list as presented of those felons deleted from the county election rolls. Member Hicks seconded the motion. The motion passed 3 – 0. Member Watts made a motion to approve the list of deceased voters that staff has deleted. Addison Lester seconded this motion. This motion carried 3 – 0.

B,. OLD BUSINESS

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS - January 24, 2012

(a) Chairman Lester recommended that the minutes be proofed to avoid grammatical errors as noted in these minutes. Member Hicks made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 24, 2012 meeting. Member Addison Lester seconded the motion. Member Watts agreed to abstain since she had attended the January 2012 in an unofficial capacity and did not have the authority to act on these minutes. The motion carried 2 to 0 with 1 abstain.

C. NEW BUSINESS

4. BOARD PRESS ISSUES

Member Lester said that he wished to discuss the letter that he received from Board Members Steve Brown and Allen McCarty asking him to step aside from Board activity if and when Commissioner Lee Hearn were to decide to run for re-election. Member Lester said that it was rather unnerving to get the letter after it had already appeared in the paper. Member Watts said that she was unaware of the article until she was contacted by Pat Cooper of the Fayette Daily News. Member Lester said that the letter was not asking him to resign but to step aside from official activities involving his relative who might be running for re-election. The letter cited three areas which might have a potential impact if he were not to step aside on any of these three areas. The three areas were absentee balloting, qualifying and overseeing early voting. The following discussion took place on these three items:

(a) ABSENTEE BALLOTS Voters must complete an application and either mail or fax into the Elections Office. A ballot will then be mailed out to this applying voter. When they are returned, they are maintained under lock and key until the polls close on election day. When the polls close, there are paid workers who open and count them. We also could possibly have both Democratic and Republican observers who could watch these election workers and the overall absentee process. Member Lester said that as far as he could see, there was no impact from the board member's perspective. Supervisor Sawyer said that he had never had a board member get involved hands on. He stated that they could certainly come in and observe. Member Watts stated that sometime the ballots may be bent or torn and the opti-scan cannot read the ballot – the Board would have to duplicate these torn and or bent ballots. Usually, there are two board members who work together to actually duplicate and check for accuracy of the other member. Member Hicks asked if board members usually do this. Supervisor Sawyer and Member Watts both said that this was correct and that we were all usually in the room together. There is no requirement that the board be the only person who can do this duplicating. Member Watts said that another area of possible concern was with provisional ballots since the Board must review these and decide if they are to be counted or not. Staff members review these ballots ahead of the actual certification process and make recommendations to the Board if they should be or should not be counted. Member Watts was of the opinion that there was very little room for unethical activity. There may possibly be public misperception about all of this. There was no kind of similar request even of Member Studdard when his wife Shelia was on the ballot running for Clerk of Court. Member Watts said that this board had never been questioned to her knowledge until recently. Nobody even thought about what was going on here on the Board or in the elections department.

(b) QUALIFYING Member Watts said that this board had little if anything to do with qualifying which was handled by the political parties. Qualifying for non-partisan races have been handled entirely by staff here in the Elections Office.

(c) EARLY / ADVANCED VOTING The bulk of the persons working with Early / Advanced voting are paid part-time election clerks. There are no Board members who are involved directly with this process. Board Members may be here as the Early / Advanced Voting to help open the voting machines at the time voting ends at 7:00pm at the close of the election. The results tapes which are removed from each of the machines must be signed by three persons which might include Board members.

Supervisor Sawyer reported that he had discussed this with County Administrator Jack Krakeel. It was mentioned that possibly Member Lester should abstain from voting when certifying the election. County Administrator Jack Krakeel asked why he would want to do that. Member Hicks stated that when you do certify an election, the results are from an independent source that has given them to the board. Board members did not actually calculate these results. The staff would have actually done the elections and checked and rechecked thoroughly. Member Lester said that he had not responded to his letter, but felt compelled to respond after he and the Board had had an opportunity to discuss his comments and that they were clear how his opinion would be viewed by the Board as a whole. He said that he was still weighing potentially writing them a letter and telling them where the Board stood.

Member Lester said that it sound like the people that are out there talking about this situation are trying to make something out of nothing. Member Watts said that the worst part of all of this is that Commissioner Hearn did not divulge that he and Member Lester were related. Member Watts said that lots of folks did not know Member Lester who had been appointed by the largely Republican Board of Commissioners and since he was not actively involved with the party.

5. BY-LAW OFFICIAL CHANGES

Member Watts said that Commissioner Brown was not the first commissioner to try and interfere with this Board. Member Watts stated that the commissioners passed a motion in 2010 to have legislation passed which would give them veto authority over appointees from the political parties. The only say so that they have is that one appointee that the governing authority can appoint. The board of commissioner has no authority over this board and that this board has the authority to hire and fire staff working in this department and that the people working here reported to the Board of Election. Staff is paid by the County. Member Hicks asked if that was code. Member Watts said yes. Member Lester said that he had a different understanding. Member Watts said that this has been thoroughly discussed at conferences and at the State Election Board meetings. She further stated that the Counties think that because they pay the staff's salaries, these staff members are their employees. Member Watts said that they are not. The board of commissioners are required to pay for the elections no matter what it cost. Member Watts said this makes them think that they have authority over this board. She said that this board is sacro-sank for a reason. The board is not supposed to be under political pressure or influence. Some of the board of commissioners wanted to have veto powers and that was shot down and they backed off from that. Member Watts said that we now have Commissioner Brown trying to manage what we are doing – first with Member Lester and

now with Member Watts. Member Watts said Steve Brown had gotten County Administrator Krakeel to get an opinion from County Attorney Bennett. Jack responded to Steve Brown based on the opinion from Scott Bennett that based on O.C.G.A. 21-2-214 that no member of a county or municipal board of election shall engage in any political activity on behalf of a candidate, a political party or body. . .or engaging in any communication that engages in political partisanship . . . The county attorney's opinion is that the operative statement in the election code pertaining to the political activity was "while conducting the duties of such person's office.. ." Member Watts said that this meant that participation in other political activities only is prohibited during official conduct and business of a member while on the board. Member Watts further stated that what you do in your private time and as long as you did not represent yourself as working for a particular candidate and representing that you are a member of the Fayette County Board of Elections at the same time. . Member Hicks said that he understood Member Watts to state that the attorney indicated that a member of the election board could campaign for a candidate as long as they are not doing it in the official capacity as a member of the BOE. Member Hicks stated that seemed like a conflict of interest to him. Member Watts stated that was the reason she drafted the Code of Ethics in 2008. Member Watts stated that action of several past board members has caused her to draft the Section 3 of the proposed by-laws the way that she had. Member Watts said that she had gotten some from other counties and some from the code. Member Watts stated that David Studdard had thought that Section 3 was too strong and she had decided to back off. Member Judith Moore was not here at the time that the by-laws were discussed. David Studdard at the time he was on the board objected to Section 3 of the by-laws which stated that member of the board should not participate in any political activity – he wished to have it amended to reflect the code section just presented by Member Watts which would have allowed you to do this on your own time. Member Watts was of the opinion that a board member should not speak at a public meeting. The Board was of the opinion that it is difficult to separate themselves from the Board of Elections and themselves as individual citizens. Member Watts asked that we think about this Section 3 and ways that we may possible reword so it would be workable for the Board of Elections and be within the law. Member Hicks said that as it is currently written might indicate that board members would not be able to do things outside the county. Member Hicks was agreeable to tabling this until a future meeting when everybody would have time to review this information and have time to reflect on this information. Member Watts said that Commissioner Brown should stop his attacks on the members of the Board of Elections. If not, she said that she would be forced to take further action. She also felt that he had totally misinterpreted the county attorney's interpretation of the code. Member Watts stated that she had been a long-time friend of Newt Gingrich. Member Watts took on being the Fayette County Representative for Newt while she was off the Board of Elections. Member Watts told the Commissioners that she would come off these duties if she came back on the Board of Elections. Commissioner Brown found a list that still showed Member Watts in this county capacity for his campaign. Member Watts felt that there was no reason why she couldn't actually have kept this responsibility. Member Watts said that she has an e-mail that shows that she had asked the Newt Campaign to remove her name. Another county resident had agreed to take Member Watts' position on

the Newt Campaign. Member Hicks said that his cursory opinion was that a board member should not campaign for a person in this county because it is the appearance of a conflict of interest. He said that he thought that it was a different story if you were supporting a candidate in another county. Board members should avoid all appearances of a conflict of interest and take the high road. Member Watts stated that she didn't see a problem with attending a large rally by a presidential candidate. Member Hicks said that he also agreed and that was different from campaigning. He further stated that he wouldn't even wear a shirt of the candidate as long as he was within Fayette County. Member Watts said that as long as she was chairman of this board she had stayed under the radar and had no criticism. Member Watts said that most people appointed to these boards are political animals. Again Member Watts said that the Board members should think about Section 3 and how it should be reworded and this could be adopted later. Member Watts was of the opinion that even though the minutes show it was approved, there is no signed copy of these bylaws and it actually was never officially adopted. We can make changes that fit this board's way of thinking.

Member Lester said that while he had not met Member Watts until last month, some of the feedback that he had gotten was that the perception of how much she might have tried to influence those candidates that would run for office, those who didn't run and therefore those that ultimately won. Those person had a tough time distinguishing her role in the Republican Party versus her role on the Election Board. He further stated that she had gotten criticism because of her involvement in the Republican Party.

Member Lester said that we should put off the by-law changes until the March meeting of the Board of Elections. The board was asked to forward suggestions to Supervisor Sawyer in advance of the meetings.

6. LAWSUIT

Supervisor Sawyer reported that we had been working on discovery issues we had been requested to prepare. We have been in touch with Attorney Bryan Tyson who ask for a list of all candidates for County Commission since 1984 and the number of votes each received in all elections since that time. They further requested copies of the actual paperwork showing the election results which Supervisor Sawyer and staff were in the process of getting together. Supervisor Sawyer has learned that the Board of Commissioners had approved a new residency map dividing Fayette County into districts versus the present Militia District Map with 3 districts and 2 at large residency districts. Supervisor Sawyer said that he understood that the new map was for residency only and would still have voting at large. He also was contacted today by County Attorney Scott Bennett who is working on getting this to Justice for their preclearance. He asked if there had been any changes in the voting locations with the county's 36 precincts. The only change was in Tyrone for Precinct No. 9 which had been moved from the First Baptist Church of Tyrone to the Tyrone Public Library. Member Hicks asked when they were trying to get this done – Supervisor Sawyer said that he understood that they were trying to get it ready for the May 23rd qualifying. Supervisor Sawyer said that he had gotten an e-mail from Attorney Phil Hartley which referenced that Leonard Presberg would serve

out the remaining term of Tolbert – three plus years. Attorney Hartley said that this is what will occur and that there will not be a special election. The CONSENT DECREE that was signed by the Board of Education and the NAACP stated that District No. 5 which is held by Presberg would be up for election in November 2012. I spoke with Attorney Hartley and it was unclear how the position held currently by Presberg would be handled since the decree stated that he would be up for election via a special election in November 2012. Hartley was questioned if Presberg would be required to resign in order to run for election in the November 2012 election. Supervisor Sawyer reported that he had been contacted by the Reapportionment Office who was trying to find out who had drawn the maps for the Fayette County Board of Education. Supervisor Sawyer suggested that they get in touch with Phil Hartley to try and get this information. Sawyer talked to Hartley today and he said that he had not talked with anyone. Hartley told Sawyer that the Board of Education had hired someone to draw their maps. The Reapportionment office is now a part of the legislature. They previously had been a part of the Carl Vinson Institute. Supervisor Sawyer said that when we went to Reapportionment last year, we had to get a letter of recommendation from one of the House or Senate members who were a part of the Fayette delegation. Supervisor Sawyer was able to get Senator Seay to write us a letter of introduction in order to get us into the Reapportionment Office. Sawyer said that Bryan Tyson was the one that had the County Commission map drawn for Fayette County. All board members asked that a copy of the CONSENT DECREE and also the Election results since 1984 be forwarded to them. Supervisor Sawyer said that he would forward the e-mail he had just received from Attorney Phil Hartley which contained a copy of the CONSENT DECREE.

7. 2012 CONFERENCES

Supervisor Sawyer said that he had left these on the agenda so that we could keep these dates, and to get a definite list of who will be attending which conference. Supervisor Sawyer said that he needed to know by March 15th for the GEOAC. Member Lester made the budget report for conferences from the previous meeting available to Member Watts – Sawyer reported that he had estimated that he would have approximately \$500 over the budget available. Member Hicks said that he would be happy to attend the GEOA conference since he had been unable to attend the previous year. Member Watts said that the conferences sometime had overlapping information. Supervisor Sawyer reported that he was going to be 2nd Vice President of VRAG and that the VRAG was going on a dinner riverboat cruise. Member Lester said that he thought it was important to take some staff to these conferences. Member Watts said that she would like to attend the GEOA conference – maybe she and Member Lester could swap out. Member Hicks said that he felt he needed to go to both since he did not attend any of the conferences last year. Both of these groups are working to possibly combine the two conferences in 2014.

8. KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVE

Supervisor Sawyer is asking for a vote to approve the Knights of Columbus to conduct the voter registration drives at the high schools as listed and as approved by Superintendent Bearden. Marilyn Watts made a motion to approve the Knights Voter

Registration Drives at the Fayette County High Schools . Darryl Hicks seconded the motion The vote carried 3 – 0. The Our Lade of Mercy will be conducted on April 26th.

9. PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE PRIMARY UPDATE

Supervisor Sawyer reported that at mid-afternoon we had a total of 1,784 votes cast in the Advanced Voting. Supervisor Sawyer reported that we had 142 come and vote on Saturday February 25, 2012. Supervisor Sawyer also reported that we would work harder with the newspapers to get more publicity about our voting. Member Watts asked if the lady poll manager that wore the hats was still working at the polls. He also asked that board members be here by 6:30pm on election night. The board members were also asked to be here at 5:00pm on Friday, March 9, 2012 to finalize and certify the election. We have to wait until 5:00pm to be certain that all ballots have been returned. Those voters who need to bring proper identification for their provisional ballots also have until 5:00pm. All the paperwork has to be at the Highway Patrol Station in Griffin by 9:00am on Monday, March 12, 2012.

Discussion was held regarding possible changing the time of the regular monthly meetings back to 5:00pm. Member Watts stated that the board meetings had been held at 5:00pm in the past since that is the time that the staff usually get off. Member Hicks stated why don't we just do the meetings at 5:00pm. He would make an effort to notify us a week in advance so we could advertise the change back to 6:00pm if he found that to be necessary.

10. BUDGET.

Supervisor Sawyer stated that the budget calendar has the departments turning the budgets in next Friday. Supervisor Sawyer said that he was not ready to turn this budget in and that he was going to see if they could possibly give him some additional amount of time. Member Watts stated that the code required that the board draw up the budget. Supervisor Sawyer said that he would like to present the budget to the board as he had drawn it up and to make any changes that they saw that needed to be made. The board would like to go over this before it is presented. Hopefully, they can give us some additional time since this is due at the time that the Presidential Preference Primary Election is to be concluded.

11. LIST OF POLL WORKERS.

The list of poll workers for the Presidential Preference Primary was passed to each of the board members. Member Hicks said that he couldn't tell who any of these people were. Supervisor Sawyer said that we relied upon our poll managers to follow through with the people who had worked with them in the past in the precincts. We started about a year ago to get some additional workers trained who could be used at the various precincts as needed. We have already assigned all but about 4 of the 10 that we trained as extras. Member Hicks asked if we had ever removed any of these workers. Member Watts stated that she recalled some that just couldn't cut it. Most that are removed are not actually removed but just not called back. We usually rely upon the poll managers if there are workers who are not keeping up. Also, Board members were going and making visits to the various precincts on election day to see what they were doing. Member Watts said that she thought that it was good for them to see us and be aware that we are overseeing

what they are doing. She also mentioned that we are going to have Sheriff's Deputies check in on all our precincts and let them know that they are available if needed. The list from the Sheriff's office had about 4 to 5 precincts assigned to each of the deputies. Supervisor Sawyer said that the deputies coordinate with the 911 Communication Center so that precincts could call 911 if they had emergencies or needed assistance. Member Hicks asked if we made sure that each precinct had the right amount of workers that they needed. Supervisor Sawyer reported that the code required one manager and two assistants. He also had budgeted up to five clerks at each precinct as well making a total of 8 workers. Member Hicks said that we should be able to look at how many workers, how many voters we had historically during previous elections. We should be able to look at all this to determine if what we schedule is the right number of workers. He recalls that at his polling location that there are workers just sitting around and not doing very much. Supervisor Sawyer said that he did have to have the three – a manager and two assistants. He also stated that he had tried all ways possible to determine how many workers should be at each of the precincts. It is difficult once you have already gotten poll workers to make changes in those numbers once you see that advance voting is showing such a large or perhaps a small turnout. Member Hicks said that we need to figure out how we can come up with a good number, but that he wouldn't want to be called at the last minute if he had been asked to work and told that he wasn't needed. Member Watts said we need to consider for future elections consolidating some of our precincts. The map in Peachtree City shows some of these precincts right on top of each other. This would allow for the use of the same clerks for possible multiple precincts. This would certainly save some money. We very likely would not be able to do this in the outlying precincts. Member Hicks said that we should look at the statistical data so we could calculate the number of workers needed based upon elections which may or may not include an incumbent. He felt that statistical data could help us determine what the correct number of workers should be. Supervisor Sawyer said that the Peachtree City Library had offered an additional week for Advanced Voting for the elections scheduled for later this year. Member Hicks said that he could imagine the County not asking the question about how we could cut cost. Supervisor Sawyer said that County Administrator Krakeel said that they may not be able to give us what we were asking for in FY 2013 budget. Member Hicks said that he was especially interested since he has learned that the code requires the board to be responsible for the budget for this department. He said that he wanted to see this code section that pertains to the board being responsible for the budget of this department. He also wanted to see the code section mentioned by Member Watts that stated that the staff reports to the board. Member Hicks indicated that in Fulton County that was not the case. They did report to the County Manager. However, the County Manager had some duty and responsibility to giving the elections department what they needed for their budget. Member Hicks did agree that if people are going to come and vote that the County is going to have to pay for it. If you are too frugal up front, it may cost you much more on the back end with bad publicity. You also don't want to be so elaborate up on the front end either. Supervisor Sawyer told the story of the problems in Paulding County when they reduced the number of their polling locations. Supervisor Sawyer said that he could see no consistency in any of the elections. He thought that the

shift would have been toward early / advanced voting, but he had not seen any consistency toward that over the last several years. The code also has just changed from 45 days advance voting down to 21 days and we are now going to have to figure how that is going to impact us. The Saturday voting is a new wrinkle and the majority of people think it is going to be a good thing. The Board was of the opinion that we should be about running elections efficient and cost effective. We may also want to consider being open later on several days during the week of Advanced Voting. Member Watts said that we needed to go over the budget before it was turned in to the Budget Department since this is the board's responsibility. Member Lester said that he would hope that Supervisor Sawyer would get in touch with the Board when he was ready to review the budget that he had pulled together.

The list of poll workers for the March 6, 2012 Presidential Preference Election was presented to the board for their review. Member Hicks said that he was ready to approve it as presented since he didn't know any of these people anyway. Member Lester said that he saw the name Greg Clifton, the newly elected mayor of Fayetteville. Member Watts said that he couldn't be on there as an elected official. He is shown with Precinct 30. Member Hicks asked if the by-laws made provisions for the Boards to vote by e-mail. Member Watts said that there was no provision for it. Member Hicks asked if there was a provision against it. Member Watts said that she felt that it could certainly be incorporated and used in certain instances. She was not aware if there was some provision against doing it. A number of Boards that Member Hicks serves on do allow for proxy votes to be taken by e-mail. Member Watts said that some Boards do allow for telephone conferences. The State Election Board does allow for this – Member Watts said that she had been at some of their meetings when a board member had joined the meeting via the telephone. Member Hicks said that he thought that we could certainly do this as it relates to the budget and to the list of poll workers. Member Watts said that she would get copies of code sections that she had referenced e-mailed to the board members as well as copies of the enabling legislation. Member Watts stated that our enabling legislation stated that the board would hire and train the poll workers. Member Lester said that he did understand this about the poll workers, but did not understand that about staff. Member Watts said that she had hired everyone that was currently working in the Elections & Voter Registration office. Member Hicks questioned that this also meant even staff. Member Lester said that this was one of the issues that was a point of contention between Member Watt's interpretation and some other's interpretation. Both Lester and Hicks said that they would especially like to see the code section that spells this out that the board was responsible for hiring all staff. Member Hicks said that to be quite honest, he did not want to manage all staff. He only wanted to manage Supervisor Sawyer since Sawyer should be the one to manage staff. Member Watts said that the responsibility of managing staff was given to Supervisor Sawyer. Member Watts said that the responsibility of interviewing and actually hiring was the board's responsibility. Member Hicks said that he would think that if the code required us to hire, that we should pass this duty onto Supervisor Sawyer as it applies to everyone up under him. He said that this was like the County Administrator who was hired by the County Commissioners and he is responsible for everyone up underneath him. Member Hicks said that he was very much in favor of a conference call regarding the approval of the list of poll workers as well as

the budget. Member Watts said that we would need to have the budget as well as the list of poll workers sent to the board members ahead of time that we needed to do the conference call. Member Watts questioned putting a new worker in as manager at a precinct - Betty Johnson at Precinct 25 had worked previously with the Probate Judge. The other workers at this precinct had also worked there before with the Gozas. They are staying on to work with Betty at this precinct. Former Manager of Precinct 36 - Jane Price - met with me and the new managers at Precinct 36 and Precinct 25. Member Watts suggested that we have plenty of oversight for Precinct 25 since the manager was a new worker. The board discussed splitting up the precincts and visiting them during the day. Member Watts made a motion to approve the poll worker list with the exception of deleting the name of Greg Clifton from Precinct 30. Member Lester seconded the motion. The motion carried 3 - 0.

10. BUDGET (cont'd)

Supervisor Sawyer reviewed the budget calendar and reported that the budgets were due from the departments next Friday, March 9, 2012 - the same day as the conclusion of the Presidential Preference Primary. Supervisor Sawyer said that he planned to ask for some additional time to complete the budget for the Elections Department. Member Watts said that the code required the Board of Elections to look at two previous years budgets as the new budget was being formulated. Supervisor Sawyer said that we may have to go back several years to see what was budgeted and have comparable budgets to compare them to. She also felt that we needed to go over it before it was turned into the budget office. Supervisor Sawyer said that he would send the board members a copy of what he had pulled together as soon as it was complete for the board to review and make changes as they thought was necessary. The board agreed to get together either by phone or in person to review the FY 2013 as well as previous years budget.

E. OTHER BUSINESS

NONE

F. PUBLIC COMMENTS

NONE

G. OTHER ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

NONE

H. ADJOURNMENT - There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:05pm,